

## FALSE CLAIMS ACT FILING IN MEDICAID SUPPLIES CASE

March 3, 2004 - United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and Attorney General Gerald J. Pappert, announced today the filing of a civil complaint, filed under the False Claims Act as well as common law theories of fraud and unjust enrichment, alleging that defendant Nichole Equipment and Supply, Inc. ("Nichole Medical"), its owner Dominic Rotella and two of its employees and/or former employees, William Tresca and Lorraine Oliveras, created and participated in a scheme to defraud the Pennsylvania Medicaid Program. Specifically, the complaint alleges that Nichole Medical and defendant Rotella falsely certified the delivery of adult incontinence supplies to Medicaid beneficiaries that had, in fact, never been delivered. The complaint alleges that the scheme continued between at least January 1996 and February 2000.

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program designed to provide payment of certain medical expenses for low-income patients. Funding for Medicaid is shared between the federal government and participating states. Pennsylvania contributes about 45% and the federal government contributes about 55% to fund Medicaid payments within the Commonwealth.

The case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul G. Shapiro and Senior Deputy Attorney General Elizabeth M. Dilloway Cleek.